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Poisoning by Strychnine-Cases of John Spicer and Dr. Gardiner.

In the case of John Spicer, as our readers are aware, the Coroner's jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by strychnine, and that it was not a case of saicide. At the same time they experated the druggist who sold the seldlitz powder, and the clerk who had been under arrest.

Some circumstances which appeared in the examination before the Coroner's jury, and which have hitherto escaped attention, seem to us worthy of comment. Mr. Spicer died on Sunday, at about a quarter or twenty minutes past four o'clock in the afternoon. Dr. Bartlett, who attended upon the case, was first called, from the opposite side of the street, at a few minutes after four. A brother of the deceased testified that Mr. Spicer, on Saturday-the day previouswhile out riding, complained of feeling mean, On Sunday-the day of Mr. Spicer's deathat about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, this pains in his body."

a mouthful of dinner; that he lay extended on his back on the parlor floor- evidences of debt, from taxes altogether. all this before the powder, which is supposed

to feel very strange.

The death of Mr. Spicer is involved in

when it was too late.

Several years ago, an extraordinary suiside by means of strychnine occurred in the drinks, and wears. city of Washington. It was that of Dr. tablished was all manufactured and false. Dr. Gardiner was travelling in Europe at the time, and first saw the statement in some newspaper. He at once started for home, and on his arrival at Washington demanded

an investigation. The Grand Jury indicted him. On his first was allowed to go at large on very moderate bail-we think only ten thousand dollars. The citizens of Washington divided as into political parties in regard to the case. Many of them became warmly interested in the doctor, who was a fine-looking, plausible, prepossessing man. The law's traditional delays occurred in his case as in others. He enlivened the interim by falling in love with a beautiful girl in Georgetown, to whom he was engaged to be married.

Finally the time of his last trial arrived. The Government had procured fresh evi-

whelming against the doctor. It became perfectly apparent that the silver mine had een concected by the doctor's imagination, and never had any existence in reality. vided by law was ten years in the Penitenenced the culprit for the longest possible drinking.

Immediately after the sentence he was removed to the prison. Upon his arrival there | bear the burden of local taxation. he became ill. Dr. Hall, a learned and eminent physician, was sent for. He thought that he detected symptoms of poison. He expressed his suspicions to the patient, and was necessary that he should disclose the chance of his being saved. But Dr. Gardiner, July 28. though pertinaciously pressed by Dr. Hall to make known the truth, denied, and persisted in denying, as long as he could speak, that he had taken anything.

He died. The post morten examination resulted in the discovery of strychnine suffieient to cause death. It was conjectured that Dr. Gardiner intended to kill himself nore suddenly, and to die before hissentence should be pronounced; but that the paper in which the stryclinine was enclosed delayed its action until the paper had become saturated and softened by the water which was drank with it.

## The Spicer Mystery.

It is our duty to state that we have learned rom a source which cannot be mistaken that the deceased Mr. Spicer was entirely dependent on his brother George for the means of living, and had been so for several years. These facts were perfectly well known to his wife, so that she could not have had any pecuniary metive for poisoning her husband. She not only could not inherit any property by his death, but must become directly dependent on her brother-in-law, who might not be disposed to continue to support her after the de-

We consider that these facts render it Impossible that Mr. Spicer could have been poisoned by his wife from motives connected with money. So far a little light is shed upon this mystery of death. But the real truth seems as far off as ever.

Government Bonds and Local Taxes.

Upon the question of taxing the Governbrother asked Mrs. Spicer where her husband | ment bonds now outstanding, whether for was. She replied: "In the parlor," "At | national or local purposes, there can be but one dinner," he continued, "I asked if John was opinion among honest men. We have pledgcoming to dinner? She stated that he did | ed the national faith that they shall not be not want any. She asked me to step in the thus taxed, and we must keep our word, no parlor and see him before I went out. I matter what it costs. And as to future issues, promised her I would. She expressed her | since any tax imposed by the Government ignorance of what was the matter with him, itself amounts to simply a reduction of the and seemed to be anxious for me to find out | interest, the cheapest and shortest way of the cause of his singular action. A quar- collecting such a tax is to fix a net rate of inter before three o'clock I stepped in terest at the outset, and for , rafter pay that the parior, and found him lying on his back | net amount without reduction. But when it on the floor. I asked: 'Are you sick?' He | comes to the matter of taxes for State, county, replied: 'I feet mean,' placing his hands city, and town expenses, there is, indeed, to his breast. He also complained of having room for a plausible argument in favor of replacing the present bonds by a new class, Thus it seems that Mr. Spicer was ill on which shall, in common with other property, the day before his death, and that on contribute to the cost of public schools, lightthe day of his death he complained of ling streets, the police, and other such things, feeling mean and of pains in his bedy, besides the amount required by State governand that his wife expressed a desire that his ments. Still, there are circumstances which brother should find out the cause of his not only render it unfair to tax the bonds singular conduct; that he was too unwell even for these purposes, but which should exempt them, in common with other mere

The right to tax property at all rests upon to have contained the fatal poison, had been the necessities of society. Money must be had for the expenses of the body politic, and At the same time, it is to be observed that the only way to get it is by taxation. In disthe expressions which he used to Dr. Bartlett, | tributing this burden, two rules of apportionwith reference to his sensations after the ment have, in general, been adopted—one powder had been taken, were quite different | based upon the presumed benefits derived from those which he had employed in describ- from the subsequent expenditure of the ing his illness previously. Before, he said, "1 money, and the other looking to the pecunifeel mean." To Dr. Bartlett he said that he ary ability of the payer. By the former a feared he was poisoned, and that almost imperson is assessed in proportion to the value mediately after taking the powder he began of his property, it being assumed that it is soon. rendered more valuable and its enjoyment protected by the maintenance of the various 1cep, dark mystery. It is very likely that he | departments of government. By the latter was murdered; yet the circumstance that no his income or expenditure is taxed, on the strychnine was found in any other seidlitz ground that the more he has the better able powder taken from the same drawer which he is to pay. The local taxation of this city contained the one sold to Mr. Spicer, does not proceeds upon the former basis. Property prove conclusively that the one sold to him alone is taxed, according to its assessed did not contain strychnine when it left the value. No matter how great may be a man's apoth cary's store. Because strychnine had | income, provided he owns no real or personal been accidentally mixed in one scidlitz property, he pays nothing. He may have a powder, it would not necessarily follow that salary or an annuity of \$50,000 per annum, It must be mixed with all or any others. but if he spends it all, and lays up nothing, Mr. Spicer's earnest expressions of solicion his name never gets on the tax books. On fude and anxiety to recover, are evidence that the other hand, the United States income he did not commit suicide; but they are not tax, and its customs and excise duties, take conclusive proof. Many a person who has no account of a man's invested capital, but taken poison to commit suicide has bitterly only of his yearly profits. If he has millions repented the rash act, and prayed for recovery | of dollars lying idle or unproductive, he is not called upon for a cent, except indirectly, and by way of duties upon what he eats,

Now, so long as our local taxation proceeds Gardiner. He had recovered a large sum of | upon the theory of benefit and protection, evimoney from the Government for damage to a | dences of debt ought not to be subject to it. silver mine in Mexico, alleged to have been A man is living here in this city, and has all done by the American army during the his means invested, say in the bonds of West-Mexican war. After the money had all been | ern railroads, or in the debt of the United paid over to him, a charge was made that the | States. A few pieces of paper, which he may claim was a fraudulent one; that the silver | keep in his pocketbook, or send to London if mine had no foundation in fact; and that he chooses, are all he has to show for it. The the evidence by which the case had been es- property upon which they are a lien is scattered over the country, and receives neither protection nor benefit from our city or State. In the case of United States bonds, indeed, their value depends upon the order and prosperity of the whole country, but New York is but a part of that country ; and there is no justice in her taxing those bonds exclusively. Boston, trial the petit jury failed to agree, and he | Philadelphia, and every other place also help to pay the interest on them, and may rightful ly claim to share with her. The local taxation of Government bonds, therefore, as well as that of other personal securities, cannot be defended on the ground of benefit to their

> If, again, the other principle be invoked, and the bonds are taxed because of the ability of their owners to pay, the objection comes up that this makes an unjust discrimi nation in favor of men whose means of living come from other sources. Here is a banker who, by using borrowed capital, is making

which yields him \$60 a year, or a railroad bond or a mortgage which pays \$10, must be taxed \$25 or \$30? Here is a President of Then followed the dreadful verdict of a bank, who gets a salary of \$15,000 a year, guilty. The extent of the punishment pro- and spends it all, while women or children who are living upon the income of funds left. tiary. The Court, with stern justice, sen- in trust for their support are heavily taxed. Evidently, if we are going into the system em-the full ten years. As Dr. Gardi- of taxing according to ability to pay, we her rose, in obedience to the order of must revise our whole method of assessing the Judge, to receive his sentence, he taxes, and impose them upon incomes, withdrank part of a glass of water. Some one out reference to the source from whence they who was looking on thought he dropped a are derived. Until this is done, it is no more bit of white paper into the tumbler before | than just to stick to the principle we have adopted, and make only that property which is directly benefited by local expenditure

The action brought by our Government in a French court of law against the shipbuilder Arman to recover a balance, alleged to be in the told him that if he had taken anything, it federacy, has been just decided, on appeal, in favor of the United States. We gave a statefact, and what the poison was, to afford any | ment of the facts of this case in THE SUN for

> At the June term of the United States District Court for this city, two men, Charles Hartcan and Ferdinand Sulzberger, were convicted of conspiring to defraud the Government by secretly removing whiskey from a bonded warebonse. They were sentenced to imprisonment for 10 days, and to pay a fine of \$5,000 each. One would think that opportunities of making an example of whiskey swindlers were not so abunand yet we hear that President Johnson has unouditionally pardoned both the offenders, and that, too, without the usual consultation with the District Attorney. Mr. Johnson alleges that the pardon was recommended by Secretary McCulloch. Congressmen Chanler and Fernando Wood, Mayor Hoffman, John B. Haskin, Judge Brady, C. E. Howe, Sheriff O'Brien, and many others. We are not surprised at finding the name of Secretary McCulloch among the list of those who thus have interfe red with the due course of justice, since he is frequently charged with belonging to the whiskey "ring," but we expected better things of Mayor Hoffman. The flimsy pretext that the riminals were too poor to pay their fines, and at they had already been in custody for a period nger than the term of their sentence, ought not to have imposed upon a man as clear-sighted as he usually is. As to the President, he has forfeited by this unwise use of the pardoning power all right to complain of the bad administration of the Internal Revenue Department. It is hard to eatch the scoundrels who cheat it any way, and if they are to be let go as soon as caught, there is

no use in hunting them down. Gen. Sheridan has been fined one hundred lollars and costs for ordering one Dunn, sutler and acting Postmaster at Fort Leavenworth, to be removed from the military reserve on which he fort stands. The Justice of the Peace beore whom Dunn made his complaint held that o citizen could in time of peace be driven off military reserve by military force, and that the plaintiff had rights as a postmaster, appointed by a coordinate branch of the Government, which could not be disregarded. He denied a motion for a new trial, but exceptions to the ruling were made by the counsel for Gen. Sheridan, and the case will go to a higher court.

An American woman who lately visited in London that remarkable person, the author of Adam Bede, Romola, and the Mill on the Flors, was greatly delighted with the quality and intonations of her voice. "Never did a sweeter voice," she says, "fascinate a listener. So soft and low that one must almost bend to hear," The writer adds that this "is a special charm of he most finely cultured English ladies," which very true; and let us also say in passing that finely cultured ladies" is every way an atrocious phrase. But while speaking of women's cices, our travelling countrywoman ought to have addressed to the women of the United States, whether "finely cultured" or otherwise, and, if possible, "culture" their way of speaking to something like the English standard. The women of this country are graceful, charming, lovely; but a sweet, gentle voice, of pure and melodious tones, is a rare thing among them. Most American women, matrons as well as girls, speak through their noses, and their voices are harsh, loud, and suggestive of whining or drawl-Of course, there are exceptions to this the cause of a phenomenon at once so disagreeable and so universal we cannot undertake o tell; but the evil is undeniable, and its correction cannot be commenced a moment too

A correspondent calls our attention to the fact that the Nicolson pavement put down in this city is not the genuine thing at all. The real colson pavement is made of blocks of pitch e, which, if I id carefully in streets not subof to very heavy carrage, will hold good for fifen or twenty years. The pavement put down in this city is made of white pine, which will not ast more than three or four years, and will require a great deal of tinkering even for that. The difference in profit to the contractors must be immense; and so is the difference in the value of the pavement to the people who have to pay

The most successful journal in France at the present moment is the Lanterne, of which M. Henri Rochefort is the editor, or rather the author, for he writes it all himself. In fact, it is rather a weekly pamphlet than a newspaper. It does not attempt to publish the news, but confines itself to comments upon current events, mainly in the form of caustic and witty paragraphs, which, with few exceptions, are irected against the Government of Napoleon III., though with such advoltness that the Ministry have not found any opportunity of directly prosecuting him.

The law respecting the public press gives o the Minister of the Interior the right o interdict the sale of any paper in the streets and in the shops of newsvenders ervwhere in fact, except in its own publication flice. Such an interdict was issued against the Lanterne. The result was that its sale instantly rose from 25,000 to 80,000 copies, and since then it has risen to 125,000. Hereupon the Minister resorts to another dodge. The law gives him the right to send to any paper which makes an erroneous statement concerning any public question an official correction called a commu nique, which the journal is obliged to insert Such a communique has been sent to M. Rochefort. It contains a detailed report of proseedings of a session of the Legislative Body. To print it, says M. Rochefort, would require three hundred pages of the Lasterne, while each number of that periodical costa ins only sixty pages. The order to insert it is then equivalent to an order confiscating

and suppressing the paper. M. Rochefort states that he has resolved to disobey the order, and to leave the courts to decide whether the Minister has the right to apply the statute in such a manner. As a matter of law, it is plain that he has not. No principle of jurisprudence is better settled than that what cannot be done directly, cannot be done indirectly. But sence from Mexico, which proved over I his \$100,000 per annum. Shall be escape, I under the present government of France the in- | Ban

while the owner of a Government bond | dependence of the judiciary is sadly weakened, and it would not surprise us should the decision override every established rule.

The fine fixed by the law for refusing to publish a communiqué is 1,000 francs, while, as M. Rochefort states, the cost of composition, paper, and press-work which would be requisite to print the one he has received would be 7,000 francs. But the question involved is one of much greater importance than the cost of printing a amphlet of three hundred pages, and its settle cut will be looked for with deep interest in every part of the civilized world.

There is no ground for the consumers of beef to apprehend personal injury from the Texas cattle fever. The disease does not communicate any poisonous quality to the flesh of the animals; and, besides, the Board of Health are taking effectual means to prevent any of the cattle affected by it from being exposed for sale, alive or slaughtered. If the opinion of good judges, such as I'ref. Gamgee, can be relied upon, the trouble is not of a contagious character at all, and will hands of the latter, belonging to the late Con- soon be ended by the simple precaution of not allowing Northern stock to pasture in fields where Texan cattle have immediately preceded them.

Collection of Ship News at Quarantine. The peculiar enterprise of the Herald has recently exhibited itself in a new light. In order that it may seem to be in advance of all other journals in gathering shipping news, it has turned law breaker. setting at defiance all sanitary restrictions, and overriding the quarantine authorities. It is made a misdemeanor by statute for any person, except a pilot, to go on board of, or have any communication or dealing with any vessel subject to quarantine, before she shall be boarded and examined by the Health Officer; dant that these could be lightly thrown away, and power is given to that officer to detain any per son at quarantine, not exceeding twenty days who shall be guilty of such an offense.

But the Herald seems to think that this law was never designed to apply to that journal, or if so, that it must yield to its demands, whatever may be the sending his agents down the bay to communicate their sanitary condition has been ascertained and And because that officer is endeavoring to enforce the laws, and exclude the Herald from privileges which other journals are not permitted to enjoy, it heaps abuse upon his head, and charges him with baving made an arrangement with the Western Union Felegraph Company, by which the collection of shipping news is to be controlled for his own personal It is due to all parties that the public should know

the truth about the matter, and we have accordingly taken the trouble to ascertain the facts, and we find hat the only foundation for the charge is this About a year since, various parties applied to Dr. sels under quaractine, and to communicate with for the purpose of soliciting consignments. At the erect a line of telegraph to communicate between the quarantine establishment and the city, for the use of the quarantine authorbe allowed to gather and transmit news from vessels under quarantine for the public press. Upon this proposition being made, the Western Union Telegraph Company submitted a similar proposition, and insisted that it such a privilege were granted to any one, it should be granted to that company, for the reason that it was already in communication with all parts of the country, and was then engaged in furnishing news to the Associated Press, and that an arrangement could be made through it which would meet the wants of all the public journals of the city. It was manifestly unnecessary, and at the same time highly improper that the Health Officer should grant all these applications. The law had placed him at had declared that no one but a pilot should visit a prohibited any one from holding communication with vessel under quarantine without his permission. While he was anxious to furnish every facility to the news from incoming vessels, he saw at once that he eopardize, if not entirely destroy, the efficiency of all quarantine regulations. He accordingly replied to the Western Union Telegraph Company that if quarantine establishment, and such an arrangement could be made with the several members of the Associated Press as would obviate the necessity of employing more than a single agent for gathering and quarantine, such agent would be permitted to act in that capacity under such restrictions as the Health Officer should see fit to establish for the protection

This proposal was acceded to by the Company, and nected with the hospital ship, and a single person the city. This arrangement, so eminently wise and e press, with the single exception of the Herald. rangement, but refuses to receive the news thus t in advance of its being furnished to other papers. ment, except an exemption from annoyance, and the privilege of using the telegraph. But thus established without charge. While he has thus incorred the er hankful), he will receive the thanks of the public

Answers to Correspondents, "H. W."-A lense for a year is binding, even though it is not in writing. Unless you can prove pay your rent till the year is out .... " Poor Tenant No. 2."-Cheap lots can be bought in places adjoining New York. Any respectable rea state broker will put you in the way of finding what you want ... "Reader."-The Russian Emperor did not write a letter of congratulation to President Johnson on his acquittal ... "P. T. D."-D. Van probably farnish you with a book on sailing. In the books, arithmetic is all the mathematics needed. self and his friends, "Dizrayly," with the accent or and end Aug. 24. We cannot explain the caus nuendo with one "n" is not as correct as innuendo ith two.... "Daily Reader of The Sun."--Charles Nettleton, Trinity Building, is the best man we know of to help you get back pay and bounty mo ... W. H. C."—The general rule for canning vege-bles is to boil them in the can just enough to expel all the air, and then scal it up. More particular di-C. C. Prentice."-The article on Florida which anpeared in The Sun of July 15 was prepared from the most trustworthy data in our possession, and is believed to be substantially accurate. We have no further information to give on the subject at present ... "D. N. T."-A man born in America is an American, no matter where his parents came from ... "D. O. L."-Pienic is pronounced exactly as it is written, the i being sounded as in ' 'C. W. S."-The Rogers Locomotive Works, or will give you much more satisfactory information 'Reader."-Lorenzo Thomas is the only Adjutant-Register for 1867. E. D. Townsend and W. A. "Democrat."-We know of no book giving the

TRAGIC END OF AN ALLEGED OUTLAW .- The

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUC-TION

PITTSFIELD, Mass., Aug. 7, 1868 .- Twenty-five years ago the American Institute of Instruction held is for teenth annual meeting in this place. To-night the sessions of its thirty-ninth annual meeting have

I trust that a brief glance at the principal topics considered by this Association a quarter of a century ago will not be uninteresting to those who may be each of the two periods and carnest educator of Boston, and carnest educator of Boston, and of this Association. Lectures were the following subjects: "The lift Schools," by Heman Humphrey, D. ment of the Menns and Methods of

heved that the fault of lack of intentice instructor rather than the student manner of presenting a subject will see dent's attention to it.

On Turrenay morning a discussion we're Elementary Study of the English. Prof. Greene, of Brown University, advoing children to nie correct language long, are ready to commence the study of great that habits of speaking correctly may be in very early life. He would have our school taught to talk their own thoughts to recite less of the words of the book would have them trained to write their even while they can only produce the moventences. This surject was discussed ether gentlemen, and was followed by the even while they can only produce the moventences. This surject was discussed ether gentlemen, and was followed by the expense of the study of the school and of the standing pils, and also the educational history of the school and of the standing pils, and also the educational history of the deprecated the common practice of all history of the school and its pupils to gas recorded, while keeping records and history of the school and its pupils to gas recorded, while keeping records and history of the school and of the standing pils, and also the education all story of the school and spupils to gas recorded, while keeping records and history of the school and its pupils to gas recorded, while keeping records and history of the school and its pupils to gas recorded, while keeping records and the study of the schools." Solve of the school and the schools. "Solve of the school and the schools." The True Order of Studies." Course of Study in Grammar Schools." Solve of the school and of the westile school. He gave a brief outline of the school and of the school and the schools. The school and the schools are school and the sch faculties. He divided education into three ist. That in which objects, qualities, and sin should he made the lessons for instruction, in which the lessons should extend to those knowledge that will furnish applications of ler lessons, and a more extended plan for information to children. 3d. That period elementary knowledge takes on the form o and employs to a greater degree the reason ers. Other speakers followed, and the dook a wide range. Dr. Lambert, of Neurged the importance of considering the lor and a determining what studies were an only in determining what studies were an only in the left of the control o

populs in determining what studies were appropriate to them.

The discussion on the second of these questions—the "Course of Study in Grammar Schools"—was

The discussion on the second of these questions—the "Course of Study in Grammar Schools"—was opened by the Rev. Mr. Twombly, Superintendent of schools in Charlestown, Mass.

In the evening, Col. Homer B. Sprague, of the State Reform School, New Britain, Conn., delivered a very able and interesting fecture upon "John Milion, the London Schoolmaster." The terseness and beauty of its style, the aliasions to education and politics in our own day, and the eloquence of the delivery, all combined to rea fer Thursday evening the most interesting period of this meeting.

This foreneon a paper was read by Wm. C. Collar, principal of the Roxbury Latin School, on "The Classical Question." This subject was ably discossed. While he maintained with strong arguments the importance of preserving the study of the classics in the carrieulum of high school, academic, and colleginte instruction, be denonneed the common method of studying grammar for two years before the study of the structure, be denonneed the common method of studying grammar for two years before the study of the structure of the language itself is commenced. He urged that more time should be devoted to reading the language, and learning its construction, and less time be spent with the definitions and rules. He wond recommend the same general plan for Latin as that pursued in learning the French and German languages.

The views advanced by Prof. Collar were heartly

Cunges.

The views advanced by Prof. Collar were heartily endorsed by John D. Philbrick, Superintendent of Schools, Boston, and by the Hon. Joseph White, Secretary of the Board of Education for Massachasetts.

This afternoon a discussion was had on "What
ducation should precede a strictly professional
one?" which was opened by Superintendent Phil-

the valleys of New England, for this is the nome of school teachers.

The attendance at this meeting has not been as large as usual, yet the Emphe State was as well represented. Among those in sitendance from that State were Freshicht White, of the Cornell University; Dr. Woolworth, of Albany; Dr. Whibur, of the State Asylum for Idiots, at Synacuse; J. W. Buckley, Superintendent of Schools, Brooklyn; and Assistant Superintendent Calkins, of New York, and some ten or different principals of schools and academies in your State, of which number about one-third came from Brooklyn.

Lord Macaulay and the London Quarterly To the Editor of The San.

Sin: The attack on the veracity of Macaulay as an historical writer, and the antimus displayed by the nutbor of the article referring to him in a recent number of the Quarterly Review, merits, I think, some particular notice, because the status of an eminent man may be imperilled, and because it was in these United States that first and chiefly the great value and interest of Lord Macaulay's writings were recognized. The enslaught I allude to, then, is simply the renewal of a series of similar attacks made upon the great essayist in his lifetime, and which twenty years ago had attained their culmination of virulence, and were then metand completely worsted by hlm. The Quarterly then, as now, was the head with a double hostility, since its previous defeat

"Their dwellings are miserable hovels, made of clods earth, frequently without a door, a piece of old cloth out. They have no chimneys is made on the ground, and y through a hole in the roof, smoke-dried. Many houses I

and a wooden has with milk and a horospoon was given to each person.

I should occupy too much space, or I might glean much more confirmatory of my position. Remembering that this phase of life was noted down as the actual state of things in the middle of the nineteenth century, we can readily imagine that Macaniay presents no exagerated view of adairs as prevailing in theseventeenth century ere the civilizing system of William III. had borne its fruit. To impagn the truthfulness of the historian, and to discredit his fairness towards his own countrymen, is to join issue on points where Macaniay can easily be defended. I think he vitiates events as little as any similar writer, and he certainly makes history far more interesting. If, as is the case with all historians, from Herodotus to Prescott, he sometimes uses strained antitheses, and gives deeper shades to produce greater effect, he does but do in a far less degree that which all historians both of pen and pencil have not scrupled to do. Macaniay, fike Motley, invests history with the excitement of romance, but it is because he skilfully groups the materials he uses, and not because he violates truth. He can be no more charged with misrepresenting persons or facts than can other writers who may he is the case of the content of the case of the case of the case of the case of the present of the misrepresenting persons or facts than can other writers who may he is the case of the ca

oth stupid and dull, as well as false in the sens hat Sir Walter Raleigh (himself a brilliant historian)

DREE PARK, L. L., Aug. 5, 1868. Poor People's Flower Show in London.

ous readers would be glad to

London, July 19, 1848 .- A very pleasant charity that I have seen here this summer, some little account of which may interest the readers of THE SCN.

was the yearly exhibition of the Society for the Pro-Flowers are grown with great success in London, louses, and one window at least in almost all of newly washed not in some cases, but is all the more ing for that. Lords and ladies are patrons of

own at Westminster; one of these green, quiet built round by high houses, and as still and nedisand people in hardly any clothes at all-all mixed together, and all greatly interested in the rows of flower pots, ranged on tables under an awning, each ticketed with the name of the poor woman, or sick child, or hospital patient, or day's work man, who only 50 were studying any modern language. The the little plant, and scraped up the earth, and washed sunshine coming in at the window on those rare winwere poor, tired looking young women, carrying each a baby, and having two or three other children, all of a size, dragging at their mother's poor old petvery low-spirited over these bonnets; the dirty finery five years old, pulled out to the worst advantage, the mashed erowns poked into shape, and the dingy strings made the most of. But then, the eager interest with which the poor souls went into the business-hunting up and down the tables to see where the "Committee of Arrangements" had put their little bit of geranium, or lobella plant, or maricold, and such cellight —Last Saturday, Jesse Howe picked up, in

old, I should say, shabby, though evidently washed five cent shinplaster up for the occasion, and very preity, and all pink with excitement. "Polly, I knowed you'd get a prize," I heard a young woman, fired out with carrying her own big baby, say. And then she came upon her own geranium with three bloss-ms on it, and marked "second prize," and said, "I can't believe it," when they told her that that meant six shillings.

Heve it," when they told her that that meant six shillings, as "blue ent" (coat) boy, as his mother celled him, a july little fellow, with big eyes, and showing his second set of teeth, which were only on their way as yet—every other one through. He had a small geranium, which he took me to see. We went in procession, "blue ent" alread, myself, mother, baby, and children following, and all pointing out the plant with the height of pride. "He's hardly known what to do with himself these three days rest, ma'am; the children haven't been let look at it; he's taiked about it in his sleep." I saw the family toward the close of the afternoon, and, what with stypences and crices, and presents of growing plants from some manager, they were as happy as possible, for that day at least.

Nobody seemed to claim the marigold; perhaps it was the great treasure of some sick child whe couldn't come to look at it. It was certain not the get a prize; but the child has found something by this time, tucked down in the pot and carefully covered over by F., when no one was looking, with puch of earth taken from a more prosperous plan alteristic.

All those who had brought plants had a cup of tea All those who had brought plants had a cup of tea and some breadand butter given them in a tent on the ground; and there was a haid to play for them, and the grass of the little park to roll on, and for many of them it was the only bit of country for the year, I suppose. They got together and talked over the flower-pots from different streets—knew just where such and such a plant had grown, and said how—"There was Sclina's creeping jennic looked so pretty like." It was all delightful, and the prizes given by Earl Shaftesbury, and the speeches, &c., very interesting to those who could hear. We were on the outside of the circle, hearing the people talk.

G. W. B.

## Letter from the Count Jonnnes.

Sin: Upon my recent return to this city a copy of your journal of June 3, 1868, was given to me, in which, under the heading of "Sunbeams," you are pleased to paragraph me injuriously, and to dispose ' The once famous Count Joannes is practising law "paradoxical," because, having been "once fatnous I must still be famous; and being so, a town, however "obscure," would cease to be so when a min famous resided in it. Lingo, locically paradoxical. The same as a town, dark as might as to intellect, would cease to be so when Tue Son should reach and penetrate it, even with his more "Sunbeams," I say, "injurious" paragraph, because it is notonias that my domelliation and legal intestiction are in the city of New York, that I am a connection at law of the Supreme Court of the Sinte of New York, and that my public examination took place in this the First Judician District; my legal right to vote in this city, and nowhere cise; and, therefore, to paragraph me that I am now of some "obscure town" in a sister State (though I hold that no part of of our country is obscured must have, as it has, a natural tendency to injure my legal rights in this city and State. Therefore, you will oblige by publishing this letter, to correct the error, not male; and from past courtests to me by your Editor-Inchicf, I save cult mith that he will render justice to me and my interests, when brought to his consideration with all good feeling on my part. Respectively,

George, the Court Joannes.

The Spicer Mystery-Letter Purporting to

be from a Boston Lady.
To the Editor of the World. the extraordinary verdict rendered, I feel it my "duty in instituct of all," to relate a singular case which occurred to myself several years ago.

Several years ago, in Boston, feeling myself a little out of time, I called upon a druggist whom I personally know—a gentieman of the highest respectability, integrity and moral worth, visiting in the same social circles as myself. I stated my case to him. He advised me simply to take a scidility powder, to which I assented; he went to the box containing them and took one out and wrapped it neatly in white paper, requesting me to call in a "day or two" and let him know low I telt.

Upon reaching home I sat down in a reflecting mood, took the powder out of my pocket, and pro-

requesting me to call in a "day or two" and let him know how I telt.

Upon reaching home I sat down in a reflecting mood, took the powder out of my peaket, and proceeded to make an arrangement to take it. What strange impulse prompted me to look into the blue paper I cannot telt, except the hand of Providence, On opening it it had to my eyes a different appearance from other sendilitz I had taken at previous times (not purchased at that store). I rebbed my finger into it. I looked shining and finely rough to take touch. I dipped my finger into it moistened with my tongne, and on touching it to that member it tasted sweet. In an instant I felt that it was poison, and returnal instanter to til druggist. On stating my convictions to I im he could not realize such a thing, and was much agitated on examination to find my suspaions were correct. It was "ursanic my convictions to I im he could not realize such a thing, and was much agitated on examination to find my suspasions were correct. It was poison, and the doubt that worried his mind, said: "Arrah Misther Doolan, don't be onaisy; we're shure to bate 'to the touch. I dipped my finger into it moistened with my tone, and on touching it to that member it tasted sweet. In an instant I felt that it was poison, and returnal instanter to tild regist. On stating my convictions to I im he could not realize such a thing, and was much agitated on examination to find my suspasions were correct. It was poison, and the doubt that worried his mind, said: "Arrah Misther Doolan, don't be onaisy; we're shure to bate 'to doubt. "How to start, and returnal instant I felt that it was poison, and returnal instant I felt that it was poison, and returnal instant I felt that it was poison, and returnal instant I felt that it was poison, and we're come. "How to surface occurred which raised his spirit fifty per out to the doubt that worried his mind, said: "Arrah Misther Doolan, don't be onaisy; we're shure to bate 'to doubt." I was 'ursanic many too, and the doubt that worried his mind,

troduced. That he and his clerk were perfectly innocent "is beyond doubt." Thave "eschewed" "seldhtz powders" and "drug stores" ever since, thanking my God for His timely rescue.

I think with others, that Dr. Bartlett should at
once have preceded with an officer and taken the
box in question immediately from the drug store,
scaled it in the presence of the "officer and witnesses," and left it with Dr. Doremus, or some other
responsible person, until after the inquest, and then
had an examination of all the powders in said box.

Justice "to the druggist." in whose store it was
solu; "justice" to Mrs. Spicer and family, demanded
such a prompt course on the part of the physician of
the family. As it is, doubt is left in the minds of
many.

New York, Aug. 7.

Many. New York, Aug. 7. The above looks a little fishy. Why does not the Boston lady sign her name? Do ladies in Boston, when they are ill, consult

druggists instead of physicians? The idea of a lady "stating her case," when she is ailing, to a druggist instead of a doctor because the druggist visits in the same social circle with her, is | quite calmir. Le whole affair was probably only a funny, to say the least.

SUNBEAMS.

-Young men anxious to get rid of their wild oats would do well to get a sewing muchi -Main produces annually \$300,000 worth of

A gentleman of Troy who buried his fifth wife. I mouths ago, married a sixth last Thursday -California produces purple figs, a quarter of a pound each in weight, and as big as a man's list.

-A Lowell and Boston boot-black are going tr mpete for the State championship and \$20. -Duck shooting in New York commences on August 15, and woodcock shooting on September 1. -There will be an increased crop of petatoes every State this season except Rhode Island.

excellent statuetts of the late Gov. Andrew, or -The unfinished rebel ram Texas, captured at Richmond, is now employed in bringing ice from the

-From 60 to 80 per cent on the recent mortality in our large cities has consisted of children below

selling Gen. Butler's photograph as authentic like nesses of President Johnson. Severe on Butler. -The walls of the new opera house in Hartford, Conn., are ready for the roof, which is to be put

is seriously put by a correspondent of the Advance a religious paper published in Chicago.

erament of Prusein how to tend wounded soldiers -Out of 861 boys at Eaton school, 761 are oblig-

ed to learn French. A year or two ago, out of 800 boys -A vault fifty feet deep, twenty-five feet wide, Rock, near New Haven, as a receptable for lager

-Captain De Lagree, who has been exploring lost three years, died at Suez on his return, of sheer

-In a recent thunder storm in England a soldier was struck by lightning and made blind, and a wo-

says: "When they employ a colored porter in Savan-

bella plant, or marizoid, and such Congut when "first prize" or "second prize" was found fast-ened to it!

Poultaey, Vt., a pocketbook containing notes, bonds, &c., to the amount of \$12,000. The owner, one "Polly" was particularly happy; six years Graves, of Fairboven, rewarded him with a twenty-

-A number of cattle having died suddenly on several Scotch farms, a post mortem examination was made of their carcasses, when their etomachs were found to be full of the dry, burnt grass, entirely undigested. This, combined with the want of water

-Brick Pomeroy denies that eight years ago he "was doing parter's jobs and other chores about New York," and says that, since he went into a newspaper office at fourteen years of age, he has worked at no -A Photographer in one of the country towns

in Massachusetts was recently visited by a young woman, who, with sweet simplicity, asked: long does it take to get a photograph after you leave -William Everett, son of the late Edward

Everett, and author of a volume describing university But the plant which, my comparion and myself both cried over, was a little bit of a weedy marigold, the one poor little flower on it carefully fastened about with a paper ring, such as high and mighty greenhouse men sometimes put round a choice rose in bud.

That was all, but this one a many agency left, such that. -There is a man in Worcester, Mass., with only one arm, who yet continues to drive a six horse

team; and at the Meechan lake in the Adriondacks one of the guides who has lost a leg can kill and butcher a deer, cut down a tree, and perform several other quite remarkable feats, An upstart threatened to post Gov. Scott, a brave Kentuckian of the earlier days, because he re-

fused to accept a challenge from him. " Very well." said the old here, "you post me as a coward, and then all the men in Kentucky will know, what I know now, that you are a liar." -Pike, the opera house proprietor, purchased 4,000 acres of Jersey salt marsh meadows, at a cost

of about \$16 per sere. After draining and reclaim ing it at an average outlay of \$83 per acre, he is now offered \$900 per acre for the entire property, thus yielding him a profit of militions, if he chooses to

-A letter from Jerusalem states that the grand capola of the Church of St. Sepulchre (which had fallen in) is now entirely covered with lend and sur-mounted with an elegant cross of gilt bronze. In the interior the mural paintings are being rapidly restored, and about the end of October the whole of the repairs will be finished, and the scaffolding re-

-Robert Dunlap, late of Auburn, Me., died and left behind him \$1,600 in United States bonds. He willed \$400 to his wife, one-half of the remainder to the Baptist Church in Buckfield, Me., and the ba lance to the Baptist Missionary Society. His wife waived the provisions of the will and asked an alowence. The Judge, after hearing the case, gave her the whole \$1,600.

-Recently Mr. Harvey Collins of Scarboro', Me., found one of his exen in his pasture with his horn run through one of his hind feet. It was evidrive the flics away, and caught it on the end of the foot and throwing him upon his back, where he remost valuable in town, was so hadly injured by the

-Referring to the fact that a colored youth obtained the first prize for declamation at Harvard this year, the Richmond Whig says: "If the history of this Harvard prize could be traced, we do not doubt that it would be found that the negro was by view to political effect. The question before the Harvard is Radical all over, and Harvard determined benefit Radicalism. The case was made up, the jury packed, and the verdict, of course, in favor of the negro. There is nothing farfetched in this solution. The hypothesis is doubtless a consoling one, but will strike most persons as improbable.

cut one of Gov. English's wire-puliers from New York

opera at Munich, a Mile. Mallinger contributed greatly to the success of the work. A young noble man, Comte Arco-Balley, has, it appears, be his attention for some time, but finding that latterly the comedian, Duringsfeld, had been making way reher favor, he rushed out of her salon a few evenings since, and, drawing a revolver, presented it at her, saying that "if she who possessed his heart did not belong to him it should not belong to another." Herr Duringsfeld, who fortunately happened to be present, seized the murderous weapon before the Count had time to fire, and after inflicting several violent blows on him turned him out of the room. There was a report of a duel having been arranged between the parties, but nothing of the kind has taken place the Count taking the disappointment of his revenge